

February 17, 2005
Case No. DP-311004 (7500/257)
Serial No.: 10/784,362
Filed: February 23, 2004
Page 6 of 8

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain under consideration.

A. Claims 1-13 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Skipper

Applicants respectfully traverse the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-13, and 19-21. In order to maintain this rejection, each and every element of the claimed invention must be disclosed in at least as great detail as claimed.

Independent claims 1, 8 and 19 each require "PV-bonding," which is not disclosed by Skipper. Prior to amendment, Applicants claimed "post-vulcanization" bonding and have amended the claim to require "PV-Bonding." PV-Bonding is defined in the specification, page 3 lines 3-18, as a process in accordance with United States Patents 4,987,679 and 5,031,873 and as including a structural adhesive. Skipper does not disclose PV-Bonding, and therefore cannot anticipate independent claims 1, 8 or 19. Likewise, Skipper cannot anticipate claims 2-7, 9-13, or claims 20-21 depending directly or indirectly from the independent claims.

Additionally, Skipper does not disclose "a plurality of isolation pads" as claimed in independent claims 1, 8, and 19. At most Skipper discloses a single isolation pad and a "plastic ring 19" (column 4, lines 18, 33, 47) that the Examiner likens to an isolation pad. However, those of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that isolation pads and plastic rings serve different functions. Therefore, Skipper cannot anticipate the instant invention for at least this additional reason.

February 17, 2005
Case No. DP-311004 (7500/257)
Serial No.: 10/784,362
Filed: February 23, 2004
Page 7 of 8

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-13 and 19-21 is requested.

B. Claims 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cothenet in view of Rau

The rejection of claims 14-18 is traversed.

First, independent claim 14 requires PV-Bonding. As outlined above, the prior art does not teach or suggest PV-Bonding. Furthermore, an inventor of this application is Rau, and under 35 U.S.C. §103(c), *Rau* cannot serve as §103(a) prior art as the subject matter and the claimed invention was, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person (i.e. the assignee of *Rau*, and the assignee of this application). Claims 15-18 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 14 and are therefore patentable over the prior art for at least the same reasons.

Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

February 17, 2005
Case No. DP-311004 (7500/257)
Serial No.: 10/784,362
Filed: February 23, 2004
Page 8 of 8

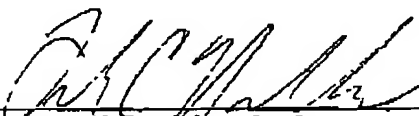
CONCLUSION

The Examiner's rejections have been obviated by the above remarks. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-21 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103, and 112. In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable consideration and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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